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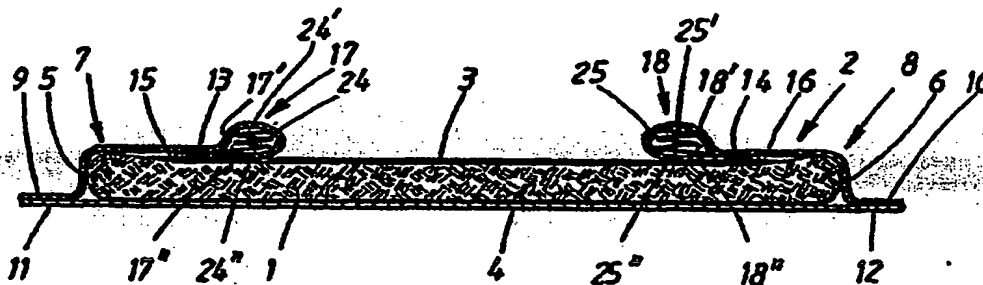
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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE95/00539</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 15 May 1995 (15.05.95)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 9401681-3 16 May 1994 (16.05.94) SE</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MÖLNLYCKE AB [SE/SE]; S-405 03 Göteborg (SE).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): LINDQUIST, Bengt [SE/SE]; Ryd Västergårdsväg 30, S-443 51 Lerum (SE). OLSEN, Clas [NO/NO]; Jerpevågen 6, N-3142 Vestskogen (NO).</p> <p>(74) Agents: GRAUDUMS, Valdis et al; Albina West AB, P.O. Box 142, S-401 22 Göteborg (SE).</p>	<p>(81) Designated States: AM, AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SI, SK, TJ, TT, UA, US, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG), ARIPO patent (KE, MW, SD, SZ, UG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>With amended claims.</i></p>	

(54) Title: A DISPOSABLE LIQUID-ABSORBENT ARTICLE, METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ITS MANUFACTURE



(57) Abstract

A liquid-absorbent article to be worn by a user and comprising a substantially longitudinal absorption body (1) and a cover (2) enclosing the same. On a first side, facing the user in an in-use position, the cover displays a liquid pervious first cover-sheet (3) and on a second side, facing away from the user in an in-use position, the cover displays a second cover-sheet (4). On said first side is provided longitudinal liquid barrier means (17, 18) folded into tunnel shape, forming a channel (17', 18') with a longitudinal tunnel wall (17'', 18''). Said folded portions enclose longitudinal means (24, 25) with an elastically resilient supporting action acting in all directions transverse to the longitudinal direction of the article against the tunnel wall (17'', 18'') of the folded portion.

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WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

1

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TITLE

A disposable liquid-absorbent article, method and apparatus for its manufacture.

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TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a liquid-absorbent article according to the preamble of the appended claim 1.

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The present invention also relates to a method and an apparatus for the manufacture of a liquid-absorbent article, according to the preamble of the appended claim 6 and 9 respectively.

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The present invention more particularly relates to articles provided with leakage barriers primarily intended for use on sanitary towels, but that of course may be used on other types of absorbent articles such as incontinence protection, diapers or similar.

25

Edge-leakage is a widespread problem primarily on sanitary towels, since patches of menstrual blood are difficult to remove and are experienced as extremely embarrassing by the affected user. Sanitary towels, in contrast to diapers or the like, are fastened directly in the panties by the user herself. Since both the size and shape of ladies panties vary greatly, it may easily happen that the positioning of the sanitary towel is less than optimal and varies from one time to another and between different users. An additional factor that increases the risk of leakage is that the sanitary towel is deformed during use, or moves away from its original position in the panties. The negative effect of erroneous positioning or deformation of the sanitary

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35

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

2

5 towel may to a certain extent be alleviated by the provision of raised edge-leakage barriers on each side of the longitudinal side-edges of the sanitary towel. Even if, by accident, the sanitary towel has assumed such a position that it will be wetted near an edge-portion, the liquid may thereby be prevented from pouring out over the edge and giving rise to soiling of the user's clothes.

10 Edge-leakage barriers are furthermore effective for controlling the spreading of liquid in the longitudinal direction of the sanitary towel. This is particularly useful in conjunction with the nowadays commonly available, extremely thin sanitary towels which often have an absorption core with high liquid-spreading capacity. The drawback
15 with such absorption cores, is that they usually spread out liquid equally well in all directions. Hereby, leakage arises as soon as the liquid reaches out to the side-edges of the sanitary towel.

20 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A number of different raised edge-leakage barriers are known in the prior art, see for example WO93/12795, showing edge-leakage barriers on a sanitary towel, which are formed by folded portions of the cover of the sanitary towel. An
25 elastic cord, fastened and prestressed at each end, extends along the inside of the formed folds and keeps the barrier raised in an in-use position. Ensuring a safe fastening of the ends of the cord means placing great demands upon the manufacture of the sanitary towels. Furthermore, the cord
30 does not counteract sideways flattening. Additionally, transversal folds are formed by the action of the elastic cord in the barrier-wall, which may be experienced as uncomfortable by the user.

35 An additional problem with modern sanitary towels, are that the surface material often consists of a perforated plastic

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

3

layer, having favourable characteristics in terms of high liquid-permeability, high surface dryness and little re-wetting (i.e. small risk that liquid is pressed back out again through the layer). Such a material is experienced as "plasticky" by many users and therefore it has become common to provide the edge-portions of the sanitary towels with more "textile" strips of non-woven material (fibre cloth). An example of a document describing such "textile edges" is SE-B-900349D-1, which shows edge-portions with flat folds, yielding a very limited liquid-stopping effect.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object with the present invention is to provide a liquid-absorbent article with an edge-leakage barrier, which by means of an integrated resilient action effectively counteracts squeeze in a direction of height as well as in a sideways direction.

Said object is achieved by a liquid-absorbent article according to the present invention, the characteristics of which are apparent from the appended claim 1.

Said object is also achieved by a method and an apparatus for the manufacture of a liquid-absorbent article, the characteristics of which method and apparatus are apparent from the appended claims 6 and 9 respectively.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will in the following be described in greater detail with a couple of embodiments with reference to the appended drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a liquid-absorbent article according to the invention in the shape of a sanitary towel,

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

4

Fig. 2 is a cross-section along the line II-II in Fig. 1, showing the edge-barriers with elastic means in a first embodiment,

5 Fig. 3 is a broken cross-section corresponding to Fig. 2, but with elastic means in a second embodiment,

10 Fig. 4 diagrammatically shows, in perspective view, an apparatus for the manufacture of an absorbent article according to the invention,

Fig 5
and 6 shows a folding device included in the invention,

15 Fig. 7 shows a perspective view of the folding device and a fold-over device according to the invention,

Fig. 8
20 and 9 shows the fold-over device in a sideview and a topview respectively.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The sanitary towel shown in Fig. 1 and 2 generally comprises a substantially longitudinal absorption-body for liquids and a cover 2 enclosing the same. In the shown
25 embodiment, the cover is provided with a liquid-pervious cover-sheet 3, which in an in-use position is facing the user. The liquid-pervious sheet 3 suitably consists of a non-absorbent cloth or a perforated plastic film. The cover
30 is also provided with a preferably liquid-proof cover-sheet 4, for example made of plastic film or a hydrophobed fibre cloth, said cover-sheet 4 facing away from the user in a in-use position. In the shown embodiment, the liquid-pervious cover-sheet 3 extends over the central portion of
35 the sanitary towel, over its entire length, but not over its width, while the liquid-proof cover-sheet 4 extends

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

5

outside of the longitudinal edges 5, 6 of the absorption body 1. In the shown embodiment, the cover is enclosed by two edge-strips 7, 8 of a skin-friendly "textile" material of for example fibre cloth (non-woven) of a polymer, which along an outer edge-portion 9, 10 are joined with the liquid-proof sheet forming flange-like longitudinal edge-portions 11, 12 of the sanitary towel. In the shown embodiment, the longitudinal edge-portions are each provided with a wing-like projection 11', 12', which by adhesive glue after folding over an edge of the panties may be fastened for fixing the sanitary towel. The joining between the different sheets in the cover 2 is for example achieved by heating the material to a melting temperature, for instance by ultra-sound. In a similar fashion, the inner edge-portions 13, 14 of the edge-strips 7, 8 are joined with the longitudinal edge-portions 15, 16 of the liquid-pervious cover-sheet 3. Instead of welding, i.e. melting the sheets together, gluing may of course be used. Furthermore, the cover-sheet 3 may alternatively extend completely under the edge-strips 7, 8 and be directly joined to the second cover-sheet 4.

In order to form longitudinal edge-leakage barriers 17, 18, the edge-strips 5, 6 are folded-over in order to form a fully closed tunnel-shape enclosing a channel 17'', 18'', whereby the inner edge-portions 15, 16 are inserted between the liquid-pervious sheet 3 and the underside of the edge-strips and are also joined to the same, for example by gluing or welding through the application of heat or ultra-sound. The tunnel shape may alternatively be formed solely by the cover-sheet 3 or by said sheet and the edge-strips 7, 8, which for example may be folded into an omega-shape with the sheet 3 as a base-sheet.

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

6

5 According to the invention, the folded-over edge-strips 5, 6 are provided with elastic means or fill-in materials which in the embodiment shown in Fig. 2 comprise a strip 24, 25 folded into a bellows-shape in cross-section, and made for example of fibre cloth (non-woven) holding the edge-barriers in an upright position and counteracting squeeze in a direction of height as well as in a sideways direction.

10 According to the embodiment in Fig. 2, a combination of textile edges and raised edge-leakage barriers has been achieved. The main component is the folded material inside the outer channels. The folded material should be of a type having a certain built-in resilient action in order to provide elastic support to the formed tunnel wall 17', 18'. Furthermore, the material should be substantially insensitive to wetting so that it maintains its characteristics during use. The material hitherto tested is a thermobound non-woven material of polypropylene fibres. Whilst other types of fibres with relatively high built-in resilient action are of course applicable, as are materials that have been treated (for example with a coating) so as to increase the resilient action. Each strip 24, 25 is thus provided with one or more longitudinal folds having a V- or Z-(zig-zag) shaped cross-section with a built-in pre-stress transverse the longitudinal direction of the strips. The strips are fastened at their edge-portions 24', 24'', 25', 25'' at least partially abutting the tunnel walls 17', 18'. In the shown embodiment, the folded strips 24, 25 are directed into an "upstanding" position so that they, by means of the pre-stressing, strive to rise up and support the tunnel walls 17', 18' even after a certain flattening, which may occur in a sales packaging. A highly resilient action is, however, achieved also in other transversal directions by the folding and the built-in elastic deformation resistance of the material.

35

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

7

The barrier may, due to its design, stop or slow down the liquid spreading enough for the liquid to have time to be absorbed by an underlying absorption body. The barrier may be more or less liquid-proof, by being made of a liquid-proof or hydrophobic material. The folding of the material and the thickness of the barrier also contribute to the liquid-stopping effect. It is, however, no disadvantage if the barrier is pervious to steam.

Fig. 3 shows the edge-leakage barrier 17 in a second embodiment, where the elastic means consists of a cord of for example foam material or fibre material, yielding a resilient action to the barriers in all directions, seen in a cross-section, i.e. a transversal elasticity. The cord may advantageously be pre-stretched, i.e. pre-stressed in the longitudinal direction, into a transversal dimension below the transversal dimension of the channel during manufacture, which after off-loading yields a dimensional increase in a transversal direction and thereby a mechanical locking against the tunnel wall and a pre-stressing in a transversal direction resulting in an increased resilient action.

Furthermore, the elastic means in both embodiments have both in common that they need not be fastened in the wall of the barrier, whereby unnecessary tensions are avoided.

Referring to Fig. 4, a method and an apparatus will be described, for the manufacture of the liquid-absorbent article according to the invention. Hereby, the description is limited to the manufacture of the portion of the cover 2, which supports the edge-leakage barriers 17, 18. The rest, i.e. the manufacture of the absorption body, the liquid-proof sheet 4 and their joining together with the rest of the cover is known in the prior art and should not require a closer explanation.

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

8

5 The apparatus according to Fig. 4 starts off from one and the same material line 20, continually rolled off a storage roll 21. Outer edge-cutting cutter-rollers 22, 23 are included in the apparatus for cutting out two outer edge-

10 strips 24, 25 in order to form the filling or the elastic means in the barriers. A centrally cutting cutter-roller 26 divides the interstitial material line 27 into two parts 28, 29 to form the edge-strips 7, 8 with the tunnel portions in the edge-leakage barriers 17, 18.

15 The outer edge-strips 24, 25 are each fed to their own folding device 30, 31 for folding the strips into a bellows-shaped cross-section, which will be described in greater detail below.

20 A fold-over device 32, 33 is also included in the apparatus for each part 28, 29 of the line, in which the barrier is formed by folding into a tunnel shape with the folded strip inserted, which will be described in greater detail below.

25 From a storage roll (not shown), a material line 34 is fed, which is to form the liquid-pervious cover-sheet 3. The completed edge-strips 7, 8 with associated barriers 17, 18 are fed spaced apart a distance adapted to the width of the material line 34, and joined together with the same and is brought through a joining device 35 for joining of the folded-over edge-strips 7, 8 with the longitudinal edges 35, 36 of the material line 34. The device 35, for example comprises a combined heating- and embossing device, utilizing ultra-sound.

30 The folding devices 30, 31 in the shown embodiment, comprise, as is best seen in Fig. 5 and 6, two rotating rollers 36, 37 having zig-zag-shaped tracks 38, engaging each other. When the strips 24, 25 are fed through these

35 rollers they are given the same shape as the profile of the

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

9

tracks, i.e. a zig-zag-shape or a bellows-shape, after which the strips are fed onto the fold-over devices 32, 33, see Fig. 7.

- 5 The fold-over device 32, in the embodiment shown in Fig. 7, 8 and 9, comprises a fold-plate arrangement whose main part consists of a gap-like longitudinal, outwardly open chute 39, extending substantially transversally (see the arrow 40) to the feeding direction 41. Furthermore, two
- 10 redirection-edges 42, 43 situated asymmetrically in the horizontal plane (the in-feed plane) is included, whilst the inlet of the chute 39 displays two, relative to the horizontal plane oblique redirection-edges 44, 45.
- 15 By the edge-strip being drawn along the longitudinal direction of the chute 39, the folded-over portion of the edge-strip is formed. From Fig. 7, it is apparent that the strip 24, folded into a bellows-shape, is fed somewhat angled into the chute 39 from the folding device 30, whereby the strip is guided and compressed towards the
- 20 bottom 46 of the chute. Hereby, it is assured that the tunnel is subsequently closed without the fill-in material being trapped between the sealed sheets.
- 25 The invention is not limited to the embodiments described above and illustrated in the appended drawings, but may varied within the scope of the appended claims. For example, it is possible that the edge-leakage barriers are formed by folding of the cover-sheet 3 only. The strip 24,
- 30 25 may be twined instead of all in combination with folding. The folding may also extend in a transversal direction. The folded strips may be laid with a print turning angle then shown. For example "laying", i.e. turned 90°, or obliquely, for example with a 45° inclination. The
- 35 barriers may extend differently, they may for example extend transversely along the longitudinal direction of the

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

10

article or they may extend curve-shaped. The barriers may be included in other articles for hygiene protection, for example diapers, incontinence protection, whereby the barriers may be designed with considerably larger dimensions.

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WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

11

5 CLAIMS:

1. A disposable liquid-absorbent article to be worn by a user and comprising a substantially longitudinal absorption body (1) and a cover (2) enclosing the same, which on
10 a first side, facing the user in an in-use position, displays a liquid pervious first cover-sheet (3) and on a second side, facing away from the user in an in-use position, displays a second cover-sheet (4), whereby said first side is provided with at least one longitudinal
15 liquid barrier means (17, 18) in the shape portion formed by a material layer (7, 8) folded into tunnel shape, forming a channel (17', 18') with a longitudinal tunnel wall (17'', 18''), characterized in, that said portion folded into a tunnel-shape encloses longitudinal
20 elastic means (24, 25; 19) with an elastically resilient supporting action acting in all directions transverse to the longitudinal direction of the article against the tunnel wall (17', 18') of the folded portion.

25 2. Article according to claim 1, characterized in, that said elastic means (24, 25) comprises a strip of material, folded in its longitudinal direction.

30 3. Article according to claim 1, characterized in, that said strip of material consists of fibre cloth.

35 4. Article according to claim 1, characterized in, that said elastic means (19) consists of an elastic strip of fibre- of foam material.

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

12

5. Article according to claim 4,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that the strip in an un-
loaded condition displays a transversal dimension exceeding
the transversal dimension of the channel (17'', 18'') but
5 is prestressed into a reduced transversal dimension in and
for mechanical locking longitudinally against the tunnel
wall (17', 18').

6. Article according to claim 2, in which two longi-
tudinal edge-strips (7, 8) form two edge-portions (9, 10)
10 of the cover (2), c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that a
longitudinal portion of said edge-strips (7, 8) forms said
portion folded-over into a liquid-barrier means (17, 18).

7. Method for the manufacture of a disposable liquid-
absorbent article to be worn by a user, comprising a
substantially longitudinal absorption body (1) and a cover
(2) enclosing the same, which on a first side, facing the
user in an in-use position, is provided with a liquid-
pervious first cover-sheet (3) and a second side, facing
20 away from the user in an in-use position, is provided with
a second cover-sheet (4), whereby on said first side is
arranged at least one longitudinal liquid-barrier means
(17, 18), formed by folding a portion of a material line
25 into tunnel-shape, forming a longitudinally closed tunnel
wall (17', 18'), c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that the
folded-over portion in a first step is held open and that
longitudinal elastic means (24, 25; 19) are inserted in the
folded-over portion and that the folded portion in a second
30 step is given said tunnel-shape enclosing said elastic
means.

8. Method according to claim 7,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that said elastic means (24,
35 25) is formed by folding a strip of material.

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

13

9. Method according to claim 8,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that said strip of material
(24, 25) is formed by cutting off an outer edge-portion of
said material line.

5

10. Apparatus for the manufacture of a disposable
article to be worn by a user, comprising a substantially
longitudinal absorption body (1) and a cover (2) enclosing
the same, which on a first side, facing the user in a in-
use position, is provided with a liquid-pervious first
cover-sheet (3) and a second side, facing away from the
user in a in-use position, is provided with a second cover-
sheet (4), whereby, on said first side, at least one
longitudinal liquid-barrier means (17, 18), formed by
folding a portion of a material line into a tunnel-shape,
forms a longitudinal closed tunnel-wall (17' 18'),
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that the apparatus includes
a fold-over device (32) for forming said folded-over
portion into an open fold and devices (39) for continually
feeding said elastic means (24, 25; 19) into the open fold,
and devices to seal the fold into a tunnel-shape.

11. Apparatus according to claims 10,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that the apparatus includes
a folding device (30) for forming said elastic means by
longitudinally folding a strip of material (24, 25).

12. Apparatus according to claim 10,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that the folding device (32)
comprises a fold-plate arrangement with redirection-edges
(42, 43) for redirection of the material line (28, 29)
towards an inlet to a gap-shaped, open chute (39).

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WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

14

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 13 October 1995 (13.10.95);
original claims 1-12 replaced by amended claims 1-12 (4 pages)]

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10 1. A disposable liquid-absorbent article to be worn by
a user and comprising a substantially longitudinal absorp-
tion body (1) and a cover (2) enclosing the same, which on
a first side, facing the user in an in-use position,
displays a liquid pervious first cover-sheet (3) and on a
15 second side, facing away from the user in an in-use
position, displays a second cover-sheet (4), whereby said
first side is provided with at least one longitudinal
liquid barrier means (17, 18) in the shape portion formed
by a material layer (7, 8) folded into tunnel shape,
forming a channel (17', 18') with a longitudinal tunnel
20 wall (17'', 18''), whereby said portion folded into a
tunnel-shape encloses longitudinal elastic means (24, 25;
19) with an elastically resilient supporting action acting
in all directions transverse to the longitudinal direction
of the article against the tunnel wall (17', 18') of the
25 folded portion, characterized in, that said
longitudinal means (19) in an unloaded condition displays
a transversal dimension exceeding the transversal dimension
of the channel (17'', 18'') but is prestressed into a
reduced transversal dimension in and for mechanical locking
30 longitudinally against the tunnel wall (17', 18').

2. Article according to claim 1,
characterized in, that said longitudinal means
(24, 25) comprises a strip of material, folded in its
35 longitudinal direction.

AMENDED SHEET (ARTICLE 19)

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

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3. Article according to claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that said strip of material
5 consists of fibre cloth.

4. Article according to claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that said elastic means (19)
10 consists of an elastic strip of fibre- of foam material.

5. Article according to claim 2, in which two longi-
tudinal edge-strips (7, 8) form two edge-portions (9, 10)
of the cover (2), c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that a
longitudinal portion of said edge-strips (7, 8) forms said
15 portion folded-over into a liquid-barrier means (17, 18).

6. Method for the manufacture of a disposable liquid-
absorbent article to be worn by a user, comprising a
substantially longitudinal absorption body (1) and a cover
20 (2) enclosing the same, which on a first side, facing the
user in an in-use position, is provided with a liquid-
pervious first cover-sheet (3) and a second side, facing
away from the user in an in-use position, is provided with
a second cover-sheet (4), whereby on said first side is
25 arranged at least one longitudinal liquid-barrier means
(17, 18), formed by folding a portion of a material line
into tunnel-shape, forming a longitudinally closed tunnel
wall (17', 18'), c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that the
folded-over portion in a first step is held open and that
30 longitudinal elastic means (24, 25; 19), with an
elastically resilient supporting action acting in all
directions transverse to the longitudinal direction of the
article against the tunnel wall (17', 18') of the folded
portion, are inserted in the folded-over portion and that
35 the folded portion in a second step is given said tunnel-
shape enclosing said elastic means.

AMENDED SHEET (ARTICLE 19)

WO 95/31163

16

PCT/SE95/00539

7. Method according to claim 6,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that said longitudinal means
5 (24, 25) is formed by folding a strip of material.

8. Method according to claim 7,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that said strip of material
(24, 25) is formed by cutting off an outer edge-portion of
10 said material line.

9. Apparatus for the manufacture of a disposable
article to be worn by a user, comprising a substantially
longitudinal absorption body (1) and a cover (2) enclosing
15 the same, which on a first side, facing the user in a in-
use position, is provided with a liquid-pervious first
cover-sheet (3) and a second side, facing away from the
user in a in-use position, is provided with a second cover-
sheet (4), whereby, on said first side, at least one
20 longitudinal liquid-barrier means (17, 18), formed by
folding a portion of a material line into a tunnel-shape,
forms a longitudinal closed tunnel-wall (17', 18'),
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that the apparatus includes
a fold-over device (32) for forming said folded-over
25 portion into an open fold and devices (39) for continually
feeding said longitudinal means (24, 25; 19), with an
elastically resilient supporting action acting in all
directions transverse to the longitudinal direction of the
article against the tunnel wall (17', 18') of the folded
30 portion, into the open fold, and devices to seal the fold
into a tunnel-shape.

10. Apparatus according to claim 9,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that the apparatus includes
35 a folding device (30) for forming said longitudinal means
by longitudinally folding a strip of material (24, 25).

AMENDED SHEET (ARTICLE 19)

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

17

11. Apparatus according to claim 9,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that the folding device (32)
5 comprises a fold-plate arrangement with redirection-edges
(42, 43) for redirection of the material line (28, 29)
towards an inlet to a gap-shaped, open chute (39).

10 12. Apparatus according to claim 9,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in, that said apparatus com-
prises outer edge-cutting means (22, 23) for cutting out
outer edge-strips (24, 25) from said material line (20),
said edge-strips thus forming said longitudinal means.

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AMENDED SHEET (ARTICLE 19)

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WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

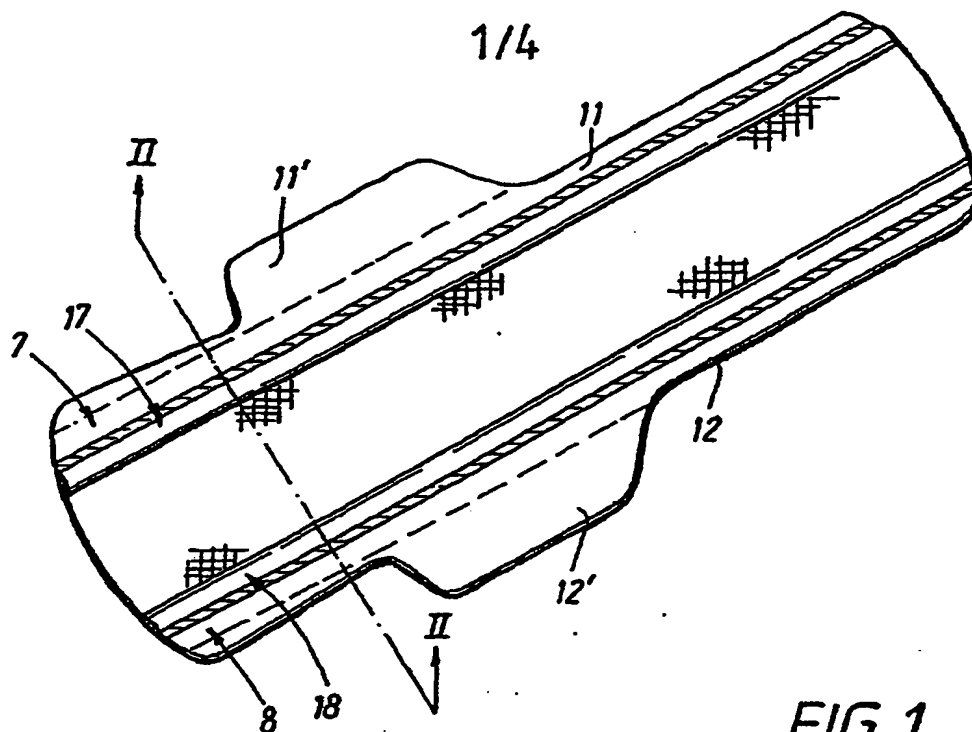


FIG. 1

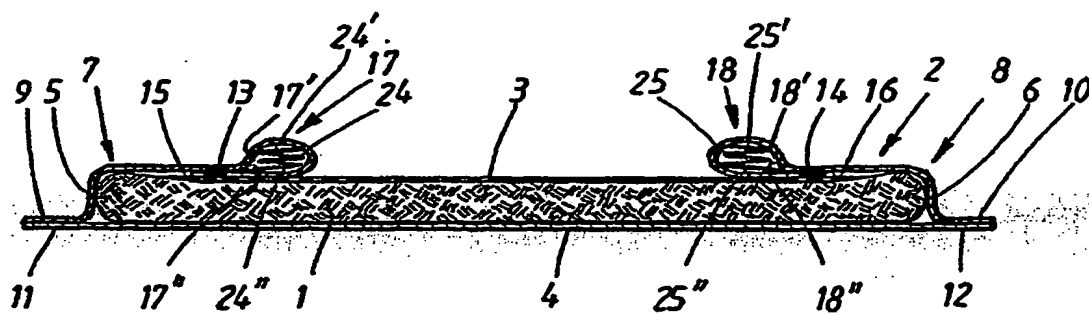


FIG. 2

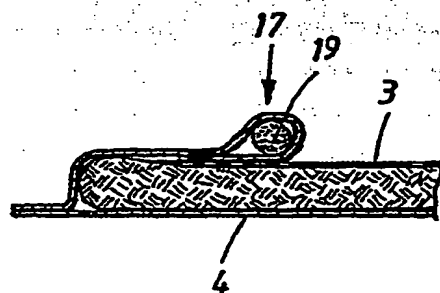
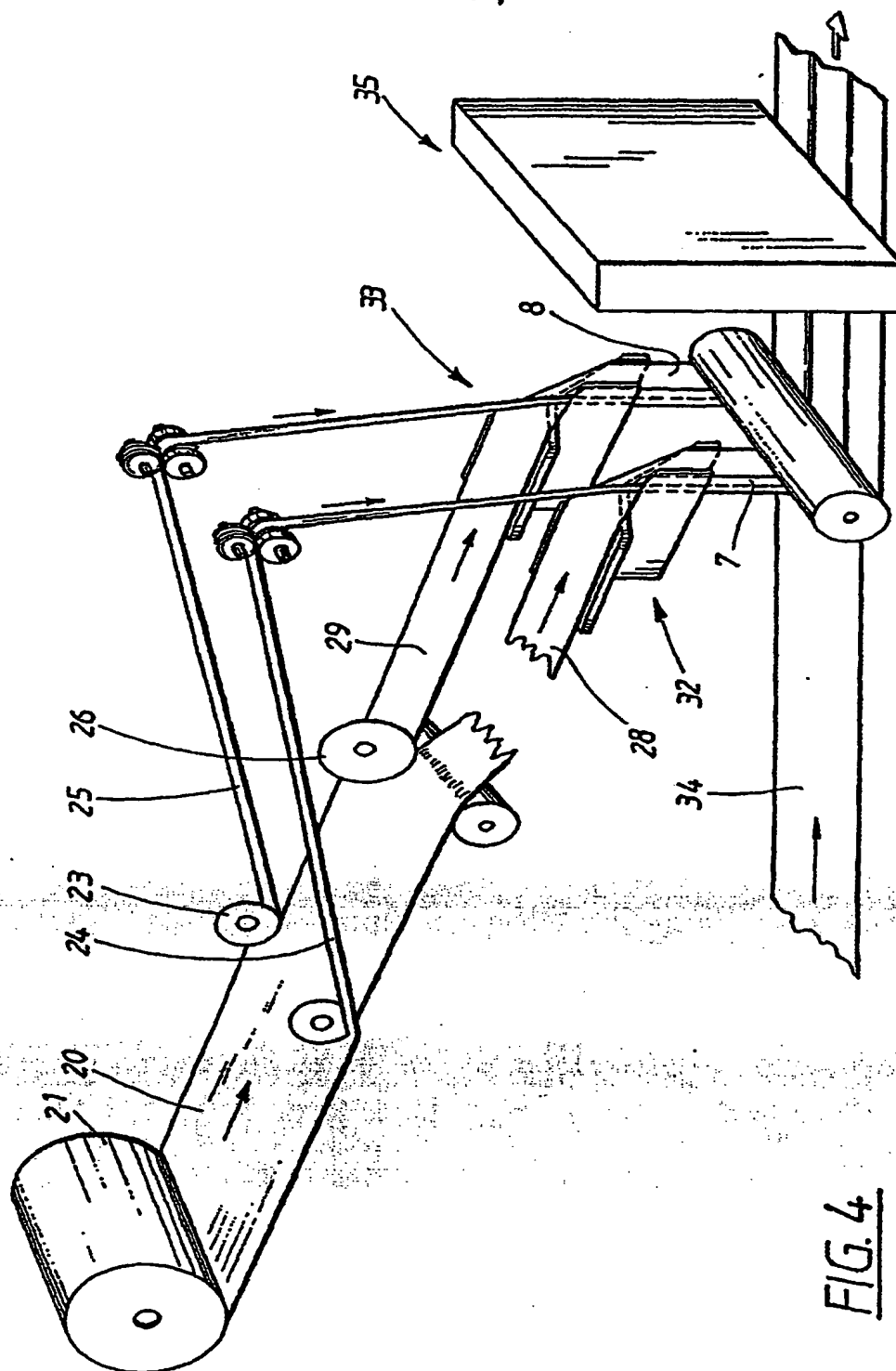


FIG. 3

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

2/4



WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

3/4

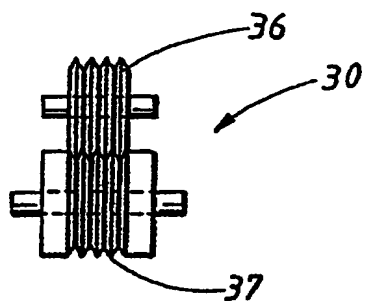


FIG. 5

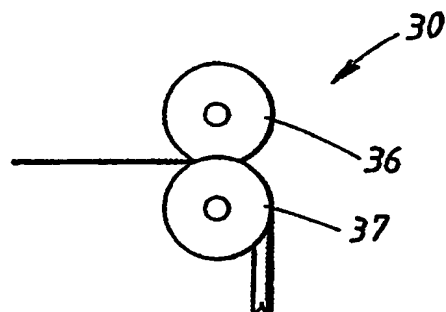


FIG. 6

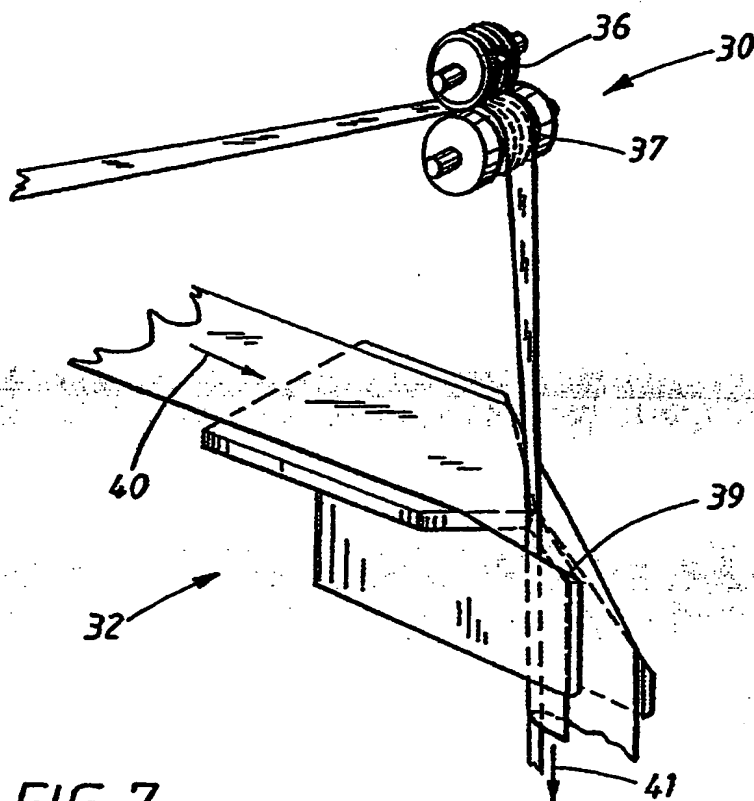


FIG. 7

WO 95/31163

PCT/SE95/00539

4/4

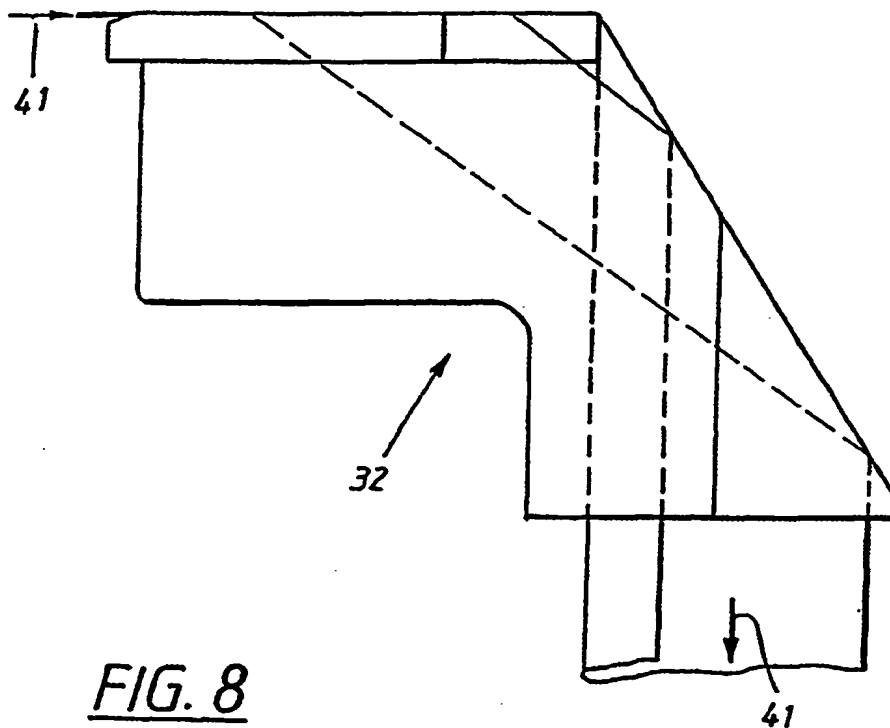


FIG. 8

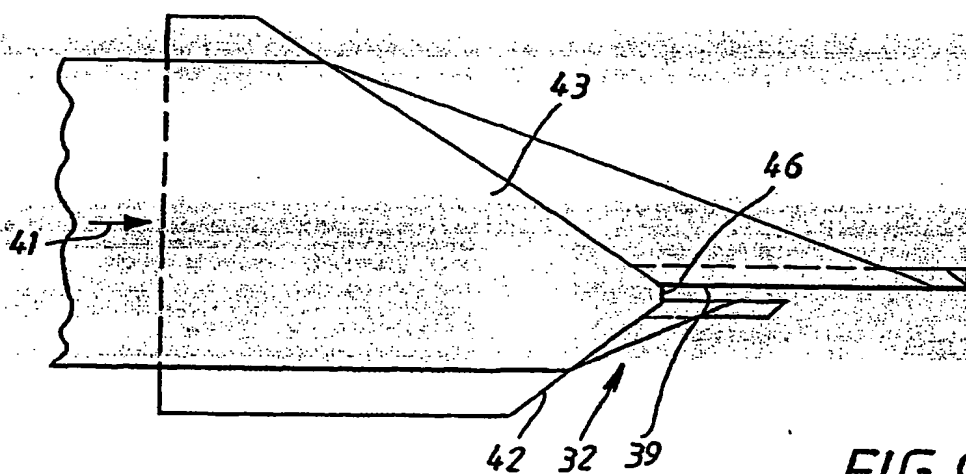


FIG. 9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 95/00539

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: A61F 13/15

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPI

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5114420 A (T IGAUE ET AL), 19 May 1992 (19.05.92), column 7, line 54 - column 8, line 67; column 2, line 35 - line 41, figures 19,20, the claims	1-4,6
A	WO 9312745 A1 (MÖLNLYCKE AB), 8 July 1993 (08.07.93), page 5, line 6 - line 28, figure 3, the claims	1-12
A	WO 9207536 A1 (MÖLNLYCKE AB), 14 May 1992 (14.05.92), page 13, line 25 - page 14, line 16, figures 6,7,9, the claims	1-12

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
 ☒ See patent family annex.

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 - "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
18 August 1995	24 -08- 1995

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	EP 0337969 A1 (MÖLNLYCKE AB), 18 October 1989 (18.10.89), the claims — —————	1-12

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31/07/95

International application No.

PCT/SE 95/00539

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